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# Constitution and By-Laws

OF THE

## Society of Colonial Wars

IN THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



ADOPTED MAY 13TH, 1902

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# Constitution.

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## ARTICLE I.

### *Name.*

The name of this Society shall be the "SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA."

This Society recognizes the authority of the General Society of Colonial Wars and will obey all its proper regulations which are applicable to this Society.

## ARTICLE II.

### *Objects.*

The objects of this Society are to aid in preparing and publishing a correct history of the American Colonies now included in the territory belonging to the United States, from the Settlement of Jamestown, Va., May 13, 1607, to the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775; to commemorate the important events of that period; to perpetuate the memory of the men who in military, naval and civil positions of trust and responsibility, by their acts and counsel, assisted in the establishment, defence and preservation of the said American colonies; and to promote a spirit of loyalty and patriotic devotion to the nation which they founded.

## ARTICLE III.

### *Membership.*

#### TERMS OF ELIGIBILITY.

SECTION 1.—Any male person shall be eligible to membership who is above the age of twenty-one years, of moral character and good reputation, and who is lineally descended from an ancestor:

(1) Who served as a military, naval or marine officer, or as a soldier, sailor or marine, or as a privateersman,

under authority of the Colonies which afterward formed the United States, or in the forces of Great Britain which participated with those of the said Colonies in any wars in which the said Colonies were engaged, or in which they enrolled men, during said colonial period.

(2) Who held office in any of the Colonies between the dates above mentioned, either as

“(a) President, Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Member of the King’s Council, County Lieutenant, or Member of the House of Burgesses in the Colony of Virginia.

“(b) Governor-General, Governor, Lieutenant or Acting Governor, President, Assistant, Member of the Governor’s Council, Deputy or Representative in the General Court, in the Colonies of Plymouth, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Haven, Maine, Providence Plantation or Rhode Island, or New Hampshire ; as President of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, or as one of the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England.

“(c) Director-General, Vice-Director-General, Governor or Deputy Governor, Member of the Council or of the Landtag of the Colony of New Netherlands, or of the Dutch Colony on the Delaware.

“(d) Palatine, Lord Proprietor, Governor, Deputy-Governor, Lieutenant Governor or President, Member of the Council, Member of the Lower House or of the Assembly of the Colonies of Maryland or of the Carolinas.

“(e) Governor, Lieutenant or Acting Governor, Member of the Council or of the Colonial Assembly in the Colony of New York.

“(f) Lord Proprietor, Governor, Deputy-Governor, Member of the King’s Council, Deputy to the Provincial Assembly, in the Provinces of East Jersey, West Jersey, or New Jersey.

“(g) Lord Proprietor, Governor, Deputy or Lieutenant-Governor, Member of the Provincial Council or Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, or Member of the Assembly of the Territories of Delaware.

“(h) Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, President, Vice President, Member of the Council or of the Provincial Assembly of the Colony of Georgia.

“(i) Governor-General, Captain-General or Lord Lieutenant of the British Colonies in North America now included in the territory belonging to the United States.”

#### *Fees and Dues.*

SEC. 2.—The admission fee shall be ten dollars. The annual dues shall be five dollars for each calendar year, payable in advance. Members admitted during the first half of any calendar year shall pay the full amount of the annual dues ; those admitted during the second half of any calendar year shall pay one-half the annual dues.

Upon payment at one time of one hundred dollars, any member in good standing and not indebted to the Society, may be elected to life membership and thereafter be exempt from the payment of all regular dues.

#### *Admissions.*

SEC. 3.—Applications for membership shall be made in writing on duplicate forms prescribed and furnished by the Society, and shall give the name, place and date of birth, occupation and residence of the applicant, his line of descent, and the name, residence and service of the ancestor from whom he derives eligibility, with proof of such service. The applicant shall make oath that the statements of his application are correct and true ; that he will use his best efforts to promote the objects of the Society and will conform to all its regulations, and, if a citizen of the United States,

that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and he shall state under oath whether he has ever made application for admission to any other Society of the Colonial Wars.

No person who has applied for admission to any other Society of Colonial Wars and has not been accepted shall be admitted to membership in this Society, except upon approval by the Society to which his application was first made.

Each application shall be endorsed by two members of this Society who shall certify that they know the applicant to be worthy of membership, and it shall be accompanied by the initiation fee.

Applications shall be filed with the Secretary and be referred by that officer to the Committee on Membership. If approved by that Committee it shall be forwarded to the Registrar, and, when verified by him, it shall be returned to the Secretary to be laid before the Society. A two-thirds vote by ballot of all members present at a meeting of the Society shall be required to elect an applicant to membership. If any applicant fails of election the initiation fee shall be immediately returned to him and the papers shall be retained by the Society and placed in the files of the Registrar's office. One copy of every application for membership, after having been accepted by the Society, shall be sent by the Registrar to the Registrar General.

#### *Resignations.*

SEC. 4. The resignation of any member presented in writing may be accepted by a two-thirds vote at any meeting of the Society, provided such member is in good standing.

#### *Suspension and Expulsion.*

SEC. 5. Any member for conduct inconsistent with the character of a gentleman and a man of honor, or with his obligations to the Society, or for other grave

cause, may be suspended or expelled from the Society, but no member shall be suspended or expelled unless written charges against him be presented to the Council. It shall be the duty of the Governor to file, with the Council, charges against any member of this Society if it becomes known to him that such member has violated any of the rules of the Society which might render him subject to investigation therefor. The Council shall give reasonable notice of such charges and afford the member opportunity to answer and refute them. The Council after due investigation may recommend to the Society the suspension or expulsion of the member and the Society shall have authority to suspend or expel him by a majority vote of the members present at any meeting of the Society. (Any member who shall be suspended shall immediately return his diploma, certificate of membership and insignia, to the Registrar to be held during such suspension.)

The Society shall have power to drop from the rolls the name of any member two years or more in arrears for dues who shall fail, after proper notice, to pay the same within sixty days, and on being dropped his membership shall cease, but he may be restored to membership by two-thirds vote of the Society, at any time upon his written application, approved by the Committee on Membership, and the payment of all sums that would have been charged against him had he not been dropped from the rolls. Any person expelled from the Society or dropped from the rolls shall forfeit all right to a diploma, certificate and insignia and shall immediately return them to the Society. The Treasurer shall refund to him the amount paid for his insignia.

#### *Transfers.*

SEC. 6. No member of this Society shall be transferred to any other State Society, and no member of any other State Society shall be received by transfer to this

Society, who is not in good standing and whose dues are not paid up to the date of such transfer.

A member of any other State Society desiring to be transferred to this Society shall file, with the Secretary, a written application accompanied with a certified copy of the original application on which he was admitted to the Society, and a certificate that he is in good standing and that his dues are fully paid. Such application shall be passed upon by the Membership Committee and Registrar before the applicant is admitted.

A member of this Society desiring to be transferred to any other Society may be required by the Registrar, to pay the cost of making the requisite copy of his application.

#### ARTICLE IV.

##### *Meetings.*

The regular annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the first Tuesday in December, of each year. Special meetings may be called by the Governor whenever he deems it necessary, and it shall be his duty to call such meetings upon the written request of five members of the Society. Nine members shall constitute a quorum of the Society at all its meetings.

Meetings of the Council shall be held whenever directed by the Society or the Chairman deems it necessary and it shall be the duty of the Chairman to call a meeting upon the written request of three members of the Council. Five members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Council.

Not less than five days' notice of all regular meetings of the Society and Council shall be given.

No other meetings of the Society or the Council shall be held without reasonable notice to all members of the respective bodies.

## ARTICLE V.

*Officers.*

SECTION. 1. The officers of this Society shall be a Governor, Deputy-Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Historian, Chaplain, Chancellor, and Surgeon, who shall hold office for one year, commencing upon the adjournment of the annual meeting at which they are elected, or until their successors are duly elected, and qualified. These officers shall be, *ex officio*, members of the Council, and the Governor shall be Chairman thereof.

*The Council.*

SEC. 2. There shall be a Council consisting of the officers named in Article V, Section 1, and nine additional members to be called "Gentlemen of the Council." Three Gentlemen of the Council shall be elected at each annual meeting and their term of office shall be three years.

Under the authority and by the direction of the Society the Council shall have general care of the interests and affairs of the Society and shall attend to such matters as may be committed to it.

*Delegates to the General Assembly.*

SEC. 3. Five delegates to the meetings of the General Society shall be nominated and elected annually at the same time, in the same manner and for the same term as the general officers of this Society.

*Nomination of Officers.*

SEC. 4. A Nominating Committee, to be chosen by the Council at a regularly-appointed meeting, not less than thirty days before the date of the annual meeting, shall nominate candidates for the offices provided for by this Constitution and, within ten days after its



appointment, shall report the names of such nominees to the Secretary, who shall, not less than five days before the date of the annual meeting, communicate the names of the candidates to all members of the Society. All members of the Society shall have the right to make other nominations for any office in open meeting.

No member who is in arrears for more than one year's dues shall be nominated or elected to any office in this Society.

#### *Election of Officers.*

SEC. 5. The officers provided for by this Constitution shall be elected, by ballot, by a majority vote at the regular annual meeting of the Society.

### ARTICLE VI.

#### *The Governor.*

The Governor shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Society, under its direction, and shall preside at all meetings. He shall be, *ex officio*, Chairman of the Council. In the absence or disability of the Governor, the Deputy Governor or the Lieutenant Governor, in the order named, shall perform the duties of the office.

### ARTICLE VII.

#### *The Secretary.*

The Secretary shall keep accurate records of the proceedings of all meetings of the Society and of the Council, separately, issue notices, conduct the correspondence and attend to such other duties as may be assigned to him. He shall be the custodian of the seal, and of all records and archives belonging to the Society, other than those lodged with the Registrar. He shall make written reports at each annual meeting and at such other times as may be directed.

## ARTICLE VIII.

*The Treasurer.*

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the Society, keep accurate accounts of the same, and report to the Society at the regular annual meeting and at such other times as may be directed. The funds of the Society shall be deposited in the name of the Society, in a bank to be designated by the Council, and disbursements shall be made only upon authority of the Society and upon vouchers approved by the Governor and the Secretary. The Treasurer shall report to the Council, for action, the names of all members in arrears for dues—for two years or more.

## ARTICLE IX.

*The Registrar.*

The Registrar shall keep a correct record of the members and officers of the Society, showing all admissions, elections and changes ; he shall be the custodian of all the proofs of membership qualifications, and all the historical and genealogical books, papers, manuscripts, etc., belonging to the Society, and shall prepare copies of such documents as the owners thereof may not be willing to deposit with the Society. He shall verify all statements of genealogical descent and service of ancestors that may be made in applications for membership and endorse his conclusions on the application.

He shall attend to matters connected with the issuance of diplomas, certificates of membership, and insignia, and keep full records of the same.

## ARTICLE X.

*Historian.*

The Historian shall keep a record of the historical and commemorative meetings of the Society and

prepare for publication such addresses and other documents as the Society shall order published. He shall submit at each annual meeting a list of the names of members who may have died during the year, with biographical memoirs.

#### ARTICLE XI.

##### *Chancellor.*

The Chancellor shall be a lawyer duly admitted to the bar, and it shall be his duty to give legal opinions on matters affecting the Society when called upon by the Governor.

#### ARTICLE XII.

##### *Chaplain.*

The Chaplain shall be a clergyman and it shall be his duty to officiate when called upon by the Governor.

#### ARTICLE XIII.

##### *Surgeon.*

The Surgeon shall be a physician in good standing, and it shall be his duty to give professional advice when called upon by the Governor.

#### ARTICLE XIV.

##### *Committee on Membership.*

The Committee on Membership shall consist of five members to be elected annually by the Society, one of whom shall be the Registrar, who shall be the Chairman of the Committee. The Committee shall examine applications for membership, carefully consider all questions relating to the eligibility and acceptability of the applicant and endorse its approval or disapproval upon the application, and forward it to the Registrar.

## ARTICLE XV.

*Committee on Historical Documents.*

The Committee on Historical Documents and Records shall consist of five members to be elected annually. The Committee shall collect such documents, records and relics as relate to the American Colonial period and especially those pertaining to the Colonies of Virginia and Maryland. It shall deliver the same into the possession of the Society. It shall make search and record the character and place of such material, when the originals cannot be obtained. It shall make an annual report.

## ARTICLE XVI.

*Seal.*

The seal of the Society of the Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia shall be

“Upon a shield azure, a Puritan, habited, grasping in his dexter hand a match-lock in pale, stock downwards *or*, The whole surrounded by an oval ribbon, gules, inscribed with the legend,

“Society of Colonial Wars  
in the District of Columbia  
1607-1775, *or*,

Beneath the shield a cutlass, and stone tomahawk in saltire, proper.”

## ARTICLE XVII.

*Flag.*

The flag shall consist of the red cross of Saint George on a white field bearing in the center the seal of the Society in the District of Columbia.

## ARTICLE XVIII.

*Insignia.*

The insignia shall be a star of nine points, as adopted by the General Society. It shall be worn by the members on all occasions when they assemble as such for any stated purpose or celebration, and may be worn on any occasion of ceremony. It shall be worn conspicuously on the left breast. Members who are or have been General Officers or Officers of a State Society, may wear the insignia with three jewels in the crown and suspended from a regulation ribbon around the neck. Members who are or have been Governors, Deputy-Governors, or Lieutenant Governors of State Societies, or Officers of the General Society, may in addition to the insignia so suspended, wear a ribbon of the Society's colors, three and one half inches in width, extending from the right shoulder to the left hip, for State officers, worn under, and for General officers, worn over the waistcoat.

The insignia shall never be worn as an article of jewelry. No member shall receive more than one insignia, except to replace one lost, proof of which must be satisfactorily established and the new one paid for.

The undress insignia shall be a rosette of red and white silk. This decoration may be worn at all times in the left coat lapel.

## ARTICLE XIX.

*Certificate of Membership.*

The certificate of membership shall read as follows :

The Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia hereby certifies that———of———was chosen a member of said Society in conformity with the Articles of its Constitution on the———day of———

in the year of Our Lord one thousand——hundred  
and——

In Witness whereof, We have hereunto signed our  
names and affixed the Great Seal of the Society.

——Governor.

——Secretary.

District of Columbia Society No.——

General Society No.——

——Registrar.

#### ARTICLE XX.

##### *Diploma.*

The diploma shall be the same as the diploma of the  
General Society of the Colonial Wars.

#### ARTICLE XXI.

##### *Amendments.*

Alterations or amendments to this Constitution shall  
not be made unless notice shall have been given in  
writing, signed by the member proposing the same, at  
a previous meeting. The Secretary shall send a copy  
of the proposed amendment to each member of the  
Society and state the meeting at which the same will  
be voted upon. No alteration or amendment shall be  
made unless adopted by a two-thirds vote of the mem-  
bers present at the meeting voting upon the same.

## By-Laws.

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### I.

#### *Order of Business.*

The order of business shall be :

1. Calling the meeting to order by the Governor.
2. Prayer by the Chaplain.
3. Reading of the minutes of last meeting.
4. Report of the Council.
5. Election of new members.
6. Report from the Secretary.
7. Report from the Treasurer.
8. Reports from committees and officers.
9. Unfinished business.
10. New business.
11. Election of officers.

### 2.

Cushing's Manual, wherever applicable, shall be the rule of procedure in the conduct of the business of the Society and Council.

### 3.

These By-laws may be altered or amended, or temporarily suspended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the Society.









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